

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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HILL ON COMPETITION.

James J. Hill is evidently a biblical scholar as well as a railroad builder, and, like most who have studied the Bible closely, he firmly believes that human nature has not changed a particle in the three thousand years, or thereabouts, which have elapsed since Solomon wrote all that can be said about that subject. Since men have always striven with one another for what they desire, Mr. Hill is convinced that competition will only die out with the human race.

Mr. Hill has been a competitor all his life. He got no government grant for his railroad, but he built it to compete with subsidized railroads on both sides of the international boundary line. His own experience gives him confidence in his position. Still he may be mistaken, for some things have changed in the last century and a half, though the desires and passions of men are just as Solomon described them.

The invention of the steam engine, the application of electricity to industrial arts and the development of the factory system have completely altered the methods of producing the chief articles of merchandise. Where men once worked singly or in small groups, they now work in small armies under one control. The division of labor has been carried to such an extent that the average workman does not know how to make the finished article on part of which he exercises his skill. This division of labor and union of effort is something new and its effect on social conditions has been revolutionary.

In the old days the shoemaker or cabinetmaker who worked for another could start in business for himself without anything but the simple tools of his trade and a room in which to work; and if he was possessed of sufficient skill he could compete successfully from the start.

The factory employe cannot do this today without enlisting the co-operation of capital. The character of competition has changed with methods of manufacture. Working alone or in small groups men fixed the selling price of what they produced on a basis of cost of labor and material. No one could have a stock on hand large enough to disturb market prices when forced to sale.

This is all changed today. A manufacturer employing five thousand hands can soon accumulate a stock of goods, the sacrifice of which will break the market. Such competition may easily become ruinous. The state of the cement trade today is an excellent illustration of this fact. Price-cutting in cement must soon stop or the manufacturers will all be broke. Such a condition naturally leads to agreements to restore prices and save the industry.

The small limeburners and cementmakers of days gone by only competed locally with one another and prices were stable.

Since the steel trade is now under consideration and Mr. Hill is one of the chief witnesses, it may be remembered with interest that absurd competition and price-cutting some twenty years ago put the price of wire nails below the price of the raw steel billets from which the wire was drawn. Wire rods were cheaper by the ton than billets, wire was cheaper than rods and wire nails were sold for less than wire; and this war went on until junk dealers could buy nails and sell them for scrap at a profit. That sort of competition did no one any good.

It was simply a trial of financial strength for which there was no more real justification than for a barroom brawl. Human nature has not changed but it has had to accommodate itself to changed conditions many times since the days of Solomon.

SCHOOL BOND ISSUE CARRIED.

The election held yesterday in Tonopah for the issuing of \$50,000 school bonds for the erection of a modern sanitary school building, was carried by a good 2 to 1 majority in favor of the bonds. The vote, while small, showed that 319 enterprising citizens exercised the franchise; 293 voting for the issuance of the bonds and 94 votes casting ballots against the issue. Two ballots were thrown out. It is a pleasure for the Bonanza to announce to the people of Tonopah that its citizens and taxpayers believe in good schools and a first-class building to properly house the children of this city. The erection of the new school building means much to Tonopah in every way.

LINCOLN AND TAFT—A PARALLEL.

The celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday brings to mind the fierce attacks made on the Liberator by members of his own party toward the close of his first administration. Horace Greeley led the newspaper attack and Henry Winter Davis led the attack in congress. Lincoln was declared to be a failure and his conduct of the war an exhibition of incompetence.

Reading the distiches launched at Lincoln in that trying time, one is irresistibly reminded of the attacks being made today on President Taft. Jealous and ambitious men in his own party are bitterly assailing him as they assailed Lincoln, but they are not moving him from purpose or swaying him from the path he has marked out for himself any more than Lincoln was moved or swayed. Although widely different in type and method from Lincoln, Taft has the same tenacity of purpose, the same cheerful equanimity and the same unyielding determination to accomplish the task in hand that distinguished the first republican president.

As election day approaches there is the same rallying of the common sense and patriotism of the nation to Taft as there was to Lincoln. Radicals and milkops combined against Lincoln during the civil war, and the same elements are in combination against Taft. While suppressing an attempt to disrupt the nation Lincoln was compelled to oppose men who wished to destroy the charter of the nation—his task was to establish the national authority without breaking down the constitution which was the warrant of national authority.

In a different way, President Taft has the same difficulty on his hands. He is asserting the national authority over the great combinations of capital, and at the same time is called upon to repel attempts to destroy the warrant of his authority—he is required to resist men who are striving to break down the protection the constitution gives to life, liberty and property under pretenses of suppressing monopoly and privilege, yet sustain the organic law.

Lincoln restored the Union and preserved the constitution. Taft will vindicate the national authority and preserve the constitution. Of that we are confident, notwithstanding the machinations of men who would defy national authority and men who would destroy it.—Oakland Tribune.

CHINA PRODUCES A MAN TRULY GREAT.

The republican of China begins its career consecrated by an act of personal abnegation and unselfish patriotism almost unparalleled in history. Elected president of the provisional government, Dr. Sun Yat Sen, in order to reconcile the northern provinces to the acceptance of the republic, resigns his office and procures the election of Yuan Shih Kai.

He could have been the first president of the republic he did more than any other man to establish, but he offers up his personal ambition as a sacrifice on the altar of patriotism. Few men in history have shown such greatness of soul.

The United States District Attorney of Nevada must be an implacable reactionary. He says the suits instituted against the Hon. William Kent and the Goleonda Cattle company, of which Col. Kent is president, for fencing government land, will not be dropped. What folly! What injustice! Is not Col. Kent a reformer? Is he not the foe of the predatory rich? Has he not been endorsed by Theodore Roosevelt, and has he not declared himself for La Follette? Can there be any better proof that he is innocent of fencing government land? It is claimed by the federal officials that he has fenced 27,000 acres of government land in Squaw valley—significant name!—and 2600 acres in another place, and they audaciously propose to try the matter out in court. Evidently they are bent upon destroying the liberties of the people and hence are directing a dastardly attack on the champion of the people. Col. Kent should be privileged to fence all the government land he pleases, he is a friend of Roosevelt.

Some years ago a man named Goodlove killed another by the name of Stuckey or McCormick. The murdered man was known by both names and his identity was fully established at the trial when Goodlove was convicted. Appeal after appeal has filled the years between, and now the supreme court of the state of Ohio has turned this prisoner loose because he was indicted for murdering a man named Stuckey whose real name was McCormick. It was not even denied that he killed the man named McCormick who also called himself Stuckey. Such hairsplitting defeats the ends of justice.

In a recent speech Colonel Roosevelt compared himself to Abraham Lincoln. But he neglected to mention the fact that Lincoln declared against a third term; also the fact that Mr. Lincoln had no Ananias club among his political stage properties. There are other points of difference, but it is hardly necessary to mention them.

Tailors in convention resolved that to be correct one's wardrobe should contain at least thirty-five suits. Why, the cost is almost prohibitive; and it limits correct dressing to plumbers, ice-men, trust magnates and tailors.

A San Francisco woman fired a few shots at her husband because he tried to get home. Some of them would do the same thing if he tried to stay away. These San Francisco women are hard to please.

It is about time that we heard of Mr. James Jeffries again. Link Steffens is trying to come back as a prophet.

The pastor who tried to make his church popular for men by playing pool has been called altogether too progressive.

It is about time that we heard of Mr. James J. Jeffries again. Link Steffens is trying to come back as a prophet.

WILL NOT DISCARD
THEIR HIGH HEELS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Feb. 20.—Fourteen women clerks and stenographers of a local publishing company yesterday resigned their positions because of an edict issued by the head of the concern that they either must buy heelless shoes or have heels on their present ones cut down by next Monday. The girls left rather than obey the mandate, declaring that the edict was an infringement on personal liberty. The order was issued as a result of one young woman catching her heel and falling last Monday.

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